(c) if so, the reaction of the Government to the proposal for Itchampalli project; and

(d) whether this project will help to ease the flood problem in the flood prone districts of Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA) (a) to (d) The States of Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra and Madhya Pradesh are required to jointly survey, plan and formulate the report and execute the Itchampalli multi-purpose project. The suggestion dated 27-9-1990 received from the State Yuva Janata Dal has been brought to the notice of the State Government

Clearance for afforestation

671. SHRI E. BALANANDAN. Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that clearance from the Forest Department for Pooyamkutty Hydel Project in Kerala is yet to be given in spite of the fact that Kerala Government has fulfilled the demand of the Forest Department for alternative sites for afforestation; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons for delay in clearance of Pooyamkutty Hydel Project in Kerala?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRIMATI MANEKA GANDHI): (a) and (b) The proposal of the State Government of Kerala for diversion of 300 1 8 ha. of forest land for construction of Pooyamkutty Hydro-Electric Project Stage-I is under process for decision.

Committee to Review Cabotage Law

672 SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE. Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state·

(a) whether it is a fact that the Government has set-up a Committee to review the CABOTAGE LAW;

(b) whether the said Committee has recommended exemption of Madras and Jawaharlal Nehru Ports from the restrictions under Section 407 and 408 of the Merchant Shipping Act, 1958,

(c) whether Cochin Port Trade Union Action Council Cochin has urged for granting exemption to Cochin Port from the said restrictions; and

(d) if so, the decision taken by Government on the request for exemption of Cochin Port?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI MANUBHAI KOTADIA): (a) A Committee was set up.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The representation of Cochin Port Trade Union Action Council was considered. The Council has requested relaxation of Cabotage Laws in respect of the Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin. The Container Transhipment Terminal at Cochin Port has been proposed to be included in VIII Plan which is yet not finalised. Therefore, the question of such an exemption does not arise.

Pay Scale of Scientific Assistant, Botanical Survey of India

673. SHRI SAMAR MUKHERJEE: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state

(a) whether the legal opinion sought by the Botanical Survey of India Employees' Asociation, Calcutta with regard to the interpretation and implementation of the judgement of the Central Administrative Tribunal on the question of allocation of pay scale of Rs. 550—900 to the post of Scientific Assistant, Botanical Survey of India, is under consideration of Government as promised vide Do No.